

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3726

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: ARMY MISSION STATUS

1. THE 25 SEP EDITION OF LA OPINION CARRIES A WASHINGTON-DATELINED ARTICLE WITH THE FOLLOWING HEADLINE: "THE UNITED STATES WOULD RETIRE ITS MILITARY MISSION". THE ARTICLE BEGINS, "A WASHINGTON SPOKESMAN SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL RETIRE ITS MILITARY MISSION IN ARGENTINA AS SOON AS ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES OFFICIALLY FORMULATE A REQUEST, ACCORDING TO A CABLE FROM THE AGENCY FRANCE PRESSE". THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH, "THE MEASURE WOULD AFFECT 28 MEMBERS OF THE US ARMED FORCES WHO CONSTITUTE PART OF THE US ARMY (MILITAR) MISSION IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC". (PARENTHESIS ADDED).

2. THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE PERTINENT:

A. TO DATE, WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL INDICATION FROM THE GOA THAT IT IS CONSIDERING ANY ACTIONS PERTAINING TO RETIREMENT OF THE ARMY, NAVY OR AIR FORCE MISSIONS.

B. THUS FAR, LOCAL PRESS REPORTS CONTAIN ONLY REFERENCES TO CARCAGNO'S ALLEGED POSITION CONCERNING RETIREMENT OF THE ARMY RPT ARMY MISSIONS, BOTH US AND FRENCH.

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C. "MISONES MILITARES" TRANSLATES AS "ARMY MISSIONS". IT

SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE TO MEAN
"MILITARY MISSIONS" (ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE).

D. INASMUCH AS THE ORIGINAL LEAK TO LA OPINION, SEP 21, IS
ATTRIBUTED TO ARMY SOURCES, THIS EMBASSY IS REFERRING ALL PRESS
INQUIRIES TO THE ARGENTINE ARMY PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE. WE HAVE
MADE NO COMMENT AND PLAN TO PROVIDE NO BACKGROUND MATERIAL UNTIL
SUCH TIME AS A GOA OFFICIAL STATEMENT IS MADE.

3. THE UNITED STATES HAS MANY FRIENDS IN THE ARMED FORCES, AND WE
BELIEVE THAT A STRONG DEBATE CONTINUES REFERENCE RETENTION OF THE
ARMY MISSION. ANY STATEMENTS MADE HERE OR IN WASHINGTON MAY SERVE
TO FAN NATIONALISTIC FLAMES HERE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE POSITION
BEING ASSERTED BY FRIENDLY ELEMENTS. SPECIFICALLY, THE ARMY MISSION
HAS EIGHT US MILITARY MEMBERS. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE LA
OPINION ARTICLE, USING AFP AS ITS SOURCE, REPORTS 28 MEMBERS OF
THE US ARMED FORCES.
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